

Commissioner Deborah A. Gist's Weekly Field Memo
Friday, October 7, 2011

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2. Barrington Education Foundation to hold [forum](#) on October 26

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12. Superintendents invited to [Race to the Top](#) budget meeting

From other state agencies:

13. Rhode Island PBS offers free [video-streaming](#) accounts

Action Item Calendar

October 14: School-prayer assurance due
October 24: Student enrollment and addresses due

October 27: School Safety and Mitigation Conference registration form due
November 1: Submission and snapshot reports due
November 15: Deadline for final selections of district teachers of the year
December 1: Districts verify all personnel assignments
June 30, 2012: Schools and districts submit final personnel assignments

Notes from Commissioner Gist:

1. Teachers of the Year invited to RIPEC dinner

As I noted to you last week, RIPEC has generously offered to host all of our 2012 Teachers of the Year at the annual RIPEC dinner, on November 2, at which Education Secretary Arne Duncan will be the keynote speaker. I'm sure it will be a very informative evening, as well as a great opportunity for our excellent teachers to receive recognition from the business leaders of our state. We will be in touch with you regarding details of this event. It appears that we have had an increase in District Teacher of the Year selections, and, as I have noted in recent field memos, a streamlined application and nomination process is still available for your use if you haven't yet selected your Teacher of the Year. We have posted the streamlined application on our Web site, at:

<http://www.ride.ri.gov/EducatorQuality/Recognition/default.aspx>

2. Barrington Education Foundation to hold forum on October 26

The Barrington Education Foundation invites you and others in your community to attend an evening forum, "Where do we go from here?: Raising the bar for public-school education." The forum will be held on October 26, at 7 p.m., at Barrington High School, 220 Lincoln Ave. 02806. I will be the first speaker, and the guest speaker will be Matt Williams, of KnowledgeWorks. Registration is required, at www.barringtoneducation.org.

From RIDE:

3. RIDE planning to develop capacity in virtual learning

Please see this notice from our Office of Multiple Pathways:

We are planning to use the unallocated portion of Title IID funds to support developing capacity in state policy, local-district policy, and the creation of a virtual-learning environment for a school-based model. In order to use these funds, we have to seek a waiver from the U.S. Department of Education, allowing us to extend the use of the funds until September 30, 2012. Please forward any comments you have in regard to

our request for a waiver extension to Holly Walsh, at holly.walsh@ride.ri.gov, by next Friday (October 14).

4. Webinar scheduled on Student Learning Objectives

Please see this notice from our Office of Instruction, Assessment, and Curriculum:

RIDE is hosting a webinar on Student Learning Objectives (SLOs) on **Wednesday** (October 12), from 9:30 - 10:30 a.m. Please join us to learn and to ask questions about the purpose and process of setting SLOs. You can register for the webinar and access recordings of past webinars at:

<http://www.ride.ri.gov/assessment/CAS.aspx>.

5. Technical assistance available on RTI

Please see this notice from our Office of Student, Community, and Academic Supports:

Session information and registration instructions for technical assistance on RTI, from both national speakers and Rhode Island higher-education partners, is available at:

http://www.ride.ri.gov/OSCAS/Programs_Services/Attachments/RTI_Training_2011_2012_Newsletter.pdf

6. Commissioner's decision addresses 504 Plan

Our Legal Office has posted the following decision, which addresses several issues in a high-school student's 504 Plan:

<http://www.ride.ri.gov/applications/RideDirectory/DOCS/2011/0023-11%20Student%20G.%20Doe%20v.%20North%20Kingstown%20S.D.%2010-4-11.pdf>

7. Collaborative Learning for Outcomes (CLO) network meetings to be held, starting this month

Please see this message from our Race to the Top team:

In preparation for the launch of the Collaborative Learning for Outcomes (CLOs) networks this fall, RIDE has been conducting implementation capacity gap-analysis sessions with every LEA participating in Race to the Top (RTTT). We are excited to share that we have now completed 36 gap-analysis sessions at this point. Many thanks to all of the district teams we have met with so far—we have been learning so much about the challenges and successes across the state and we truly appreciate your time and engagement in this work.

We are also preparing for the first set of CLO network meetings that begin in this month. You will be receiving the logistical details for these meetings shortly, including guidance on who should attend, an overview of the meeting agenda, and other pertinent information. As a reminder, the LEA groupings and calendar for the CLO process are also [posted](#) on our Web site.

For more information about the gap-analysis sessions or the CLO process, please contact Elaine Budish, at 222-8436 or elaine.budish@ride.ri.gov.

8. Rhode Island Model training sessions scheduled

Please see this notice from our Office of Educator Quality and Certification:

Registration for Rhode Island Model for Education Evaluation training, Module 2 for Personnel Evaluating Building Administrators, is now open. We have scheduled multiple sessions between through October 26. The training will focus on conducting school visits, analyzing non-observable evidence, conducting conferences, and delivering feedback.

Registration for Module 3 for Personnel Evaluating Teachers is also open. We have scheduled multiple sessions between October 24 and December 8. The training will focus on conducting classroom observations, analyzing non-observable evidence, conducting conferences, and delivering feedback.

RIDE will be offering make-up sessions for teacher evaluators who were unable to attend Module 1 or Module 2, on October 20 and October 21, at the West Bay Collaborative, 144 Bignall St., Warwick 02888. Module 1 will be offered from 8:30 - 11:30 a.m., and Module 2 will be offered from 12:30 - 3:30 p.m.

Evaluators can register for both Modules and for the make-up sessions by going to the eRIDE Workshop calendar, at:

<http://www.ride.ri.gov/applications/ridecalendar.aspx>

9. Rhode Island Model Teacher Guidebook being distributed

Please see this notice from our Office of Educator Quality and Certification:

Delivery of the Rhode Island Model for Educator Evaluations Teacher Guidebook has begun, and all districts should receive their copies by the end of next week. RIDE is excited to provide this resource for teachers in districts implementing the Rhode Island Model, and, in the meantime, an electronic version of the Teacher Guidebook can be downloaded at:

<http://www.ride.ri.gov/EducatorQuality/EducatorEvaluation/Guides.aspx>

10. Teachers' Frequently Asked Questions about Rhode Island Model posted

Please see this notice from our Office of Educator Quality and Certification:

RIDE has compiled frequently asked questions from teachers about the Rhode Island Model. A new FAQ document can be found at:

<http://www.ride.ri.gov/EducatorQuality/EducatorEvaluation/RIModelFAQ.aspx>

An additional FAQ document, focused solely on Student Learning Objectives, will be added to the Web site soon. Also continue to monitor the site for updated templates and resources based on your feedback and suggestions.

11. RIDE releases Quarterly Update Memo on Common Core State Standards, Comprehensive Assessment System

Please see the following announcement from our Office of Instruction, Assessment, and Curriculum:

We are pleased to announce the release of a Quarterly Update Memo sharing the highlights of the past quarter and looking ahead to next quarter for the Transition to the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) and for the Comprehensive Assessment System (CAS). Some highlights include:

The Hunt Institute has created *short video vignettes* featuring the lead writers of the Common Core as they *delve deeper into the CCSS*. RIDE has developed documents that provide highlights of and the links to each online vignette, its length (time), and that identifies the target audience. Find the videos and documents here:

www.ride.ri.gov/Instruction/CommonCoreMaterials.aspx#HuntVignettes

The *Study of the Common Core State Standards workshops* are continuing across the state. The sessions give educators throughout Rhode Island a common language for discussing and working with the Common Core. During the past quarter, 1,859 educators from nine districts participated in 50 sessions. To date, we have trained more than 3,000 educators, which is nearly 75% of our goal of 4,100 educators. *Thank you, educators, for your hard work!*

The launch of a *CAS Web site* where the full Guidance Document and Appendices have been posted:

www.ride.ri.gov/assessment/CAS.aspx

Two of the *CAS Monthly Webinars* have taken place, and the topics for the remaining ten have been announced. All webinars will be recorded and posted on the CAS Web site.

The memo can be viewed online at:

www.ride.ri.gov/Division-EEIE/DOCS/QuarterlyUpdates/FY12-Q1_CAS-CCSS_Quarterly_Memo.pdf.

Please visit our redesigned home page for more resources, at:

www.ride.ri.gov/Division-EEIE/transition.aspx!

12. Superintendents invited to Race to the Top budget meeting

Please see this notice from our Race to the Top team:

RIDE and RIASBO extend an invitation to superintendents, assistant superintendents, curriculum directors, and charter-school leaders to attend an informational and training session on LEA budgets for Race to the Top. RIASBO is hosting this session at the Radisson Airport Hotel, 2081 Post Rd., Warwick 02886, on October 20, from 10:30 a.m. - 12 noon. RIDE will review Race to the Top cash reimbursements, the budget-amendment process, ARRA reporting, and other budget issues related to specific projects.

From other state agencies:

13. Rhode Island PBS offers free video-streaming accounts

Rhode Island PBS informs us that teachers may sign up for a free video-streaming account using the Rhode Island PBS new video-streaming resource.

The link to sign up for free accounts is:

<http://ri.pbslearningmedia.org/>

RIDE will post this field memo on Tuesday, at:

<http://www.ride.ri.gov/Commissioner/fieldmemos/default.aspx>